US Army Corps
of Engineers
Northwestern Division

System Flood Control Review:
Regional Agency Review Briefing

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Current Action

Prior to proceeding to the Feasibility Study, the Corps is asking the region to review and provide support for further actions. It is important the region understand the significant commitment required not only in the time it will take to answer some very critical questions on the benefits of flow to improved fish passage, but also the costs associated with doing

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Recommendation

- Federal Interest
- Set of Actions to Satisfy Objectives
- Regional Support

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Background
GUIDANCE

- 2000 Biological Opinion (NMFS)
- Senate Committee Language – 2003
- Updated Proposed Action - 2004 (Action Agencies)
- Revised 2004 Biological Opinion (NMFS)

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Background
PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- Consider potential modifications to Columbia River flood control operations
- Consider how possible modifications would benefit Columbia River ecosystem
- Continue to maintain acceptable levels of protection from damaging floods
- Continue to recognize all project purposes

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Assumptions

- Initiation of Feasibility Study dependent on favorable agency review & congressional notification
- Biological benefits linked to attaining flow objectives for fish
- FS alternatives will involve change in reservoir regulation to include Canadian storage regulation
- All authorized project uses will be fully considered when formulating alternatives

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Assumptions
(continued)

- New flood damage curves will need to be developed
- Potential structural and/or operational modifications can be made at operating facilities or elsewhere in the basin to offset some if not all the increased flood risk
- Acceptable levels of flood control may need to be redefined

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Assumptions
(continued)

- A non-Federal sponsor will not be identified
- Funding for conducting a Feasibility Study will be cost shared through hydropower rate payer contributions
- Proposed work is compatible with other ongoing efforts in the region
- FS will be phased

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Phased Approach

Phase I

FOCUS: Is there water available to achieve environmental benefits needed for the fisheries?

ACTIVITIES: Hydrological Evaluations, Limited Economic/Engineering Evaluations, Limited Environmental Studies

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Phased Approach

Phase II

FOCUS: Do the environmental benefits justify the costs associated with changes to the flood control system?

ACTIVITIES: Hydrology/Hydraulic Evaluations, Economic/Engineering Studies, Environmental Studies to Refine Environmental Benefits, Limited Cost Estimates, Fish/Wildlife Coordination

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Phased Approach

Phase III

FOCUS: Are there environmental benefits that can be achieved with investment and low risk of failure to flood control system? What early action measures can be recommended?

ACTIVITIES: Preparation of Interim Feasibility Report. Continuation of studies to finalize results and make a recommendation.

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Phased Approach

Phase IV

FOCUS: Complete Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement on a Preferred Alternative?

ACTIVITIES: Prepare Final Feasibility Report and EIS, conducted public hearings, seek Congressional authorization and appropriations to begin implementation of Preferred Alternatives.

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Timeline

- Submit Reconnaissance Report – Summer 2006
- Complete Project Management Plan – Spring 2007
- Initiate Feasibility Study – Spring 2007
- Complete Feasibility Study – Fall of 2012

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Summary

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